

Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 ACDA-07 AID-05 /093 W

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R 161055Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5914

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, UG, TZ, KE, NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN MISSION TO EAST AFRICA

1. JULY 16 PRESS REPORTS FMG DELEGATION, LED BY EXTAFF COM-MISSIONER GARBA, DEPARTED FOR EAST AFRICA JULY 15 BEARING SPECIAL MESSAGES FROM HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO FOR PRESIDENTS KENYATTA, AMIN AND NYERERE. GARBA IS SAID TO HAVE REFUSED TO COMMENT AT AIRPORT ON MISSION'S PURPOSE BUT PRESS DRAWING OBVIOUS CONCLUSION (SUPPORTED BY ADVICE OF "COMPETENT POLITICAL SOURCES") THAT NIGERIANS SEEKING RESOLVE TENSIONS BETWEEN KENYA AND UGANDA WITH NYERERE'S SUPPORT. PRESS STORIES REPORTING MISSION CONTINUE IMPLICATE US AS CONTRIBUTOR TO DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES THROUGH ITS ARMING OF KENYA AND MOVING NAVAL VESSELS INTO AREA.(FOR PREVIOUS SEE USINFO MEDIA REACTION REPORTS 131315Z AND 151450Z JULY.) DELEGATION INCLUDES PLATEAU STATE GOVERNOR (EX-FEDERAL COMMISSIONER FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HEALTH) GROUP CAPTAIN DAN SULEIMAN AND NEW EXTAFF DIRECTOR

AFRICAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT A. AKADIRI.

2. COMMENT. NIGERIAN MISSION IN LINE WITH FMG GENERAL POLICY OF PLAYING ACTIVE LEADERSHIP ROLE IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS WITH PARTICULAR INTEREST IN PRESERVING OAU SOLIDARITY. HOWEVER FMG CONTINUES TO SHOW SPECIAL SENSITIVITY TO CHARGES THEY LEANING ON AFRICAN BRETHERN. IN TV SPEECH JULY 15 EVENING (OBVIOUSLY RECORDED BEFORE DELEGATION'S DEPARTURE), GARBA REITERATED GENERAL ASSURANCES NIGERIA DOES NOT INTEND THROW ITS WEIGHT AROUND IN AFRICAN CONTEXT. FMG HAS BEEN SILENT ON U.S. ARMS TO KENYA AND NAVAL MOVEMENTS (IN MARKED DISTINCTION TO PRESS TREATMENT OF MATTER) BUT WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO SEE THAT CHANGE IF KENYA AND UGANDA REMAIN DAGGERS DRAWN AND FOREIGN SCAPEGOAT NEEDED FOR SPLEEN VENTING.
CROSBY

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